



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT  
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**APRIL 8th 2016**

**CIVIC HALL NANTWICH**

# **AGENDA**

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **South West Cheshire Scout Council**

**April 8th 2016**

- 1 Welcome by the President
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015
- 4 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015
- 5 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman
- 6 Election of District Secretary
- 7 Election of District Treasurer
- 8 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee
- 9 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee
- 10 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 11 World Scout Jamboree 2015 Presentation
- 12 The District Commissioner
- 13 The County Commissioner

## DISTRICT OFFICERS 2015/2016

<p><b>President</b> Mr P F Taylor</p> <p><b>Vice Presidents</b> Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p><b>Office Holders</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chairperson</td> <td>Mrs J Selley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Mr C Titley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Mr J Bennett</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>District Executive Committee</b></p> <p><b>Ex-officio</b></p> <p>Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner</p> <p><b>Elected Members</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Mr A Whalley</td> <td>(to 2016)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr M Bennion</td> <td>(to 2017)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr A Collett</td> <td>(to 2017)</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Nominated Members</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Mrs G Robinson</td> <td>Beaver Scouts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vacant</td> <td>Cub Scouts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr T Clarke</td> <td>Scouts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vacant</td> <td>Explorer Scouts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms D Blurton</td> <td>Scout Active Support</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Co-opted Members</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Mr C Shore</td> <td>Camp Site Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr R Cave</td> <td>ADC Activities</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Registered Charity No: 506895</b> <b>Scout Association Registered No: 10808</b></p>	Chairperson	Mrs J Selley	Treasurer	Mr C Titley	Secretary	Mr J Bennett	Mr A Whalley	(to 2016)	Mr M Bennion	(to 2017)	Mr A Collett	(to 2017)	Mrs G Robinson	Beaver Scouts	Vacant	Cub Scouts	Mr T Clarke	Scouts	Vacant	Explorer Scouts	Ms D Blurton	Scout Active Support	Mr C Shore	Camp Site Chair	Mr R Cave	ADC Activities	<p><b>District Commissioner</b> Mr I Potts</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>District Commissioner</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>Explorer</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>Scout</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ms I Shaw</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>District Network Scout Commissioner</b> Mr W Swain</p> <p><b>Assistant District Commissioners</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Beaver Scouts</td> <td>Mrs D Whalley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beaver Scouts</td> <td>Mrs M Dunn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cub Scouts</td> <td>Mrs G Bracey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cub Scouts</td> <td>Mr R Bracey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scouts</td> <td>Mr R Galloway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scouts</td> <td>Ms L Grasmeder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Activities</td> <td>Mr R Cave</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Duties</td> <td>Mr M Bennion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAS Manager</td> <td>Miss D Blurton</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Local Training Managers</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Adult Training</td> <td>Mr D Selley</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Mr D Brough</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Chair Appointments Sub Committee</b> Ms J Wilkinson</p> <p><b>District Scouters</b> Miss D Blurton, Mr A Collett, Ms M Cox Mr B Westwood, Mr A Dimelow, Mrs J Shore, Mr C Spicer, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury.</p> <p><b>District Advisers</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Archery</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mountaineering</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shooting</td> <td>Mr A Brookes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sailing</td> <td>Mr I Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canoeing</td> <td>Mr A Sutton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DOE Scheme</td> <td>Mr D Stonier</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swimming</td> <td>Mrs J Jones</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>District Chaplain</b> Vacant</p> <p><b>County Scout Council Members</b> Mr R Bracey, Mr J Whittingham</p>	<b>District Commissioner</b>	<b>Explorer</b>	<b>Scout</b>		Ms I Shaw		Beaver Scouts	Mrs D Whalley	Beaver Scouts	Mrs M Dunn	Cub Scouts	Mrs G Bracey	Cub Scouts	Mr R Bracey	Scouts	Mr R Galloway	Scouts	Ms L Grasmeder	Activities	Mr R Cave	General Duties	Mr M Bennion	Development	Vacant	SAS Manager	Miss D Blurton	Adult Training	Mr D Selley		Mr D Brough	Archery	Vacant	Mountaineering	Vacant	Shooting	Mr A Brookes	Sailing	Mr I Brown	Canoeing	Mr A Sutton	DOE Scheme	Mr D Stonier	Swimming	Mrs J Jones
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# South West Cheshire District Scout Council

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Nantwich Civic Hall

### 1.0 Welcome

The District President, Peter Taylor, took the Chair. There were 36 members and 1 guest present.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly the County Commissioner Graham Phillips.

Peter referred to the deaths since the last AGM of Paul Boskett, John Whalley, Steve Bloor, Andrew Wood and Flo Swallow. He asked the meeting for a moment's reflection to remember those who had given so much to Scouting in South West Cheshire.

### 2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from John and Chris Whittingham, Brian Jones, Janet Pownall, Mike Lightfoot, Fiona Mahon (and remainder of 28<sup>th</sup> SWC Leaders) Tracey Shaw, Jen Wilkinson, Di Blurton, Gaynor Bracy, Doug Selley, Nigel Davenport, Jim Thompson and Graham Shaw.

### 3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

### 4.0 Reports

*The Annual District Report for 2015* was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the President to all contributors for their effort during the year.

Peter noted that Chris and John Whittingham were both stepping down from their roles having held those posts for some considerable time. Both have given so much and Peter wished them well and hoped that they would not be lost to Scouting. The meeting agreed to a vote of thanks for their work.

### Activities

Peter went through the reports from each section and asked for any additional comments from the contributors.

Noted that the numbers attending the Beaver Family Camp had doubled over

the previous camp and special thanks were recorded for the support work from Di Blurton and Ingrid Shaw.

Roger Bracey thanked Marilyn Norbury for her help in preparing the Cub Scout report. Peter thanked Roger and Gaynor for their work during the last year. The Cub Scout report was accepted along with the Scout report. Rob Galloway was thanked for his work during 2014/15.

The Explorer report was accepted, Ingrid Shaw thanked the Explorer Leaders for their support since she took over as DESC.

Carl Shore had sent his apologies, Barry Westwood commented on the Camp Site report and encouraged all leaders using the site to implement the Country Code, in particular tidying up before they leave. Peter congratulated all those involved in the running of Milldale.

Janet Jones commented on the Swimming Section report and thanked her team for their hard work over the last twelve months. She reiterated the need for additional instructors and adult supervisors.

Favourable comments were made about the 2014 Gang Show and everyone was looking forward to the next show in 2016.

**Scout Shop:** - Peter commented that the District had become used to the Shop and the expectations that the proceeds provided the income for the district, but that this is no longer the case.

He reiterated Jo Selley's request for additional support in running the shop on Tuesday and Friday evenings. Peter thanked all who put in many hours at the Scout and Guide Shop.

**Financial Report** – Chris Titley presented the accounts for 2014 and explained the change in format in setting them out. He commented that full details were available if anyone wished to see them.

He commented on the need for fund raising within the district and reiterated the President's comments that we can no longer rely on the Scout Shop to provide all the income needs for the District. He asked that anyone running a District event that may require funds from District contacts him ahead of the event. He also commented that the Finance Sub Committee would examine the possibility of a move to electronic banking.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting and the President thanked Chris for his work.

## **5.0 DC's Nomination for District Chair**

Joanne Selley was nominated and confirmed as District Chair, she then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## **6.0 Election of District Secretary**

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

## **7.0 Election of District Treasurer**

Chris Titley was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer.

## **8.0 Election of Two Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.**

There were two vacancies for elected members and two for and 18 to 25 year old elected member. Alistair Steele and Stephanie Fearn had been nominated for election and the meeting approved their appointment as 18 to 25 year old representatives.

## **9.0 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.**

Ian Potts nominated the following:

Beavers: Gill Robinson

Cubs: TBC

Scouts: Tim Clark

Explorers: Will Swain

SAS: Di Blurton

## **10.0 District Constitution**

During 2014 the Executive has reviewed the District Constitution and amended it in line with the latest version of POR. A copy of the proposed new constitution was available on chairs in the room. The amended constitution had been accepted by the District Executive and the District Scout Council was now being asked to approve the revised constitution. The meeting gave its approval.

## **11.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.**

Roger Bracey was willing to continue in this role, this was accepted. John Whittingham offered to take the second position, the meeting agreed to this.

## **12.0 District Commissioner**

Ian Potts referred to the number of challenges he has faced in the last twelve

months; it has been a steep learning curve but he has had fun. He said that the reports from the various sections demonstrate the wide variety of activities on offer within South West Cheshire.

**12.1** He spoke of the challenges ahead in 2015/6:

- The new Programme;
- The move of Network from County to District;
- Preparing for the changes due in 2018;
- Fund raising in the District. The Gang Show will not be the 'big earner' it once was. Fund raising activities are planned for 2015 in the District but these need support;
- Growth within the District;
- District Camp;
- Planning for the 2016 Gang Show;
- The centenary anniversary of Cub Scouts.

**12.2** He thanked everyone for the support he has received and he looks forward to having more fun.

**12.3** Finally, Ian presented Joan Hollinshead with a 40 year service certificate.

### **13.0 County Commissioner**

Graham started by thanking Ian Potts for his work over the last year.

**13.1** He spoke about the census figures and highlighted:

- Overall, Cheshire showed a 2% drop in overall numbers;
- There was a 1% drop in leaders;
- 6.5% increase in organisational support;
- Nationally Scouting will celebrate 10 years of growth.
- South West Cheshire shows:
  - A 4% increase in leaders;
  - 10% increase in organisational support;
  - 0.5% decrease in young people;
  - The largest district in Cheshire.

**13.2** Graham mentioned some of the highlights in 2014 and these included:

- Chamboree was a huge success with over 5,000 people on site over the first weekend. Graham commented that very few counties are able to organise and fund an event the size of Chamboree;
- There are two new County SAS units, one for First Aid and the second a Faith and Belief Team, the latter is looking to arrange a multi faith day in the Autumn;
- The Virtual Balloon Race raised £16,000 for groups in the County. Some changes will be made to the format for the next event due to be run later in 2015;
- A day event for GSLs had taken place where the new Youth Commissioner and the CEO were both present;
- David Bull has been awarded an OBE;
- Ann Eden has been awarded the MBE;
- A County Conference has taken place to discuss the County strategy for the coming five years. This will be presented to the County Executive.

**13.3** Looking ahead Graham referred to:

- There is a major challenge to support leaders for the new programme and 2018. He suggested that South West Cheshire was ahead of the curve with the activities the District runs;
- There will be a water and land activity to be held at Tatton in May;
- There will be a Winter Camp in 2016;
- Trevor Burgess has been appointed by County to run events such as the Tatton activity and winter camp. It is not intended to replace District run activities but for Trevor to offer support where necessary;
- Network will be easier to run from the districts and should encourage the move from Explorers to local Network. He wants Network to meet at least once a month at the same time and location;
- County is looking to develop the camp sites, tented villages will be available at both Forest and Tatton during the coming season;
- A bid has been made to HQ for funding for a County Development Officer;
- A County Scout magazine will be launched in the near future and sent to all leaders;
- The County is sending a total of 6 patrols to the Japan World Scout Jamboree along with 30 members on the service team.

#### **13.4** Capitation.

From 2016 capitation will not be payable by adults. There will be an increase in the fee paid by young members but evidence suggests that the total amount payable by groups should balance out.

#### **13.5** Compass

This will not be switched back on until Autumn 2015 at the earliest and even then it will only have the old MMS functionality. There will then be a rolling programme as further functionalities come on line.

Graham shares the frustrations of other over the Compass situation and he paid tribute to Chris and John Whittingham at the sharp end of the Compass work.

There are still Wood Badges outstanding and this is due to the Compass situation. It is hoped that those in process at the time Compass was switched off have been released and will be presented in the New Year.

#### **13.6** Graham concluded by reminding everyone to: "Never forget that what we do today will influence lives for years ahead".

#### **14.0 AOB**

No issues raised.

The meeting closed at 21.10

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. May 2015

## **DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2015. Submission of the accounts and the report to the Charity Commission was completed on schedule.

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In the absence of Compass work has been carried out during the year to update and validate the District Directory, a current version is published on the District web site and is available to all those with a log in to the site.

The Executive supported the highly successful District Film Camp and is supporting the 2016 Gang Show.

The executive was pleased to note the following awards presented in South West Cheshire including:

Katrina Fearn – Bar to the Award for Merit  
Ashley Beach (26<sup>th</sup> SWC Scouts) Award For Meritorious Conduct



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths during 2015 of a number of former stalwarts of Scouting in South West Cheshire including:

Margaret Crossley   Brian Dodd   Doris Newbrook   Keith Burrows   Kath Garner  
Joyce Dawson

**John Bennett**  
**District Secretary**

## **DISTRICT APPOINTMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **Appointments Team**

The Appointments Committee met on 8 occasions in 2015 and approved 38 new Section Leaders / Assistant Leaders. It also approved 20 renewals of appointment and 14 changes of role / additional roles.

141 DBS checks were requested and processed for new District and Group Occasional Helpers plus those needed to renew an appointment.

The number of applicants for Leader roles dropped off somewhat in the latter part of the year, and with Compass still being down the renewals have been slower too (and extra work for the Appointments Secretary!). Please watch out for the new renewals process for the District, due to be released during quarter two of 2016.

The Appointments Committee currently has 12 members, 3 of which must be present for each interview. We try to have a mix of young/older and male/ female people at each meeting to represent the mix within the organisation. I would like to thank these members for their continued support for this very important role within our District.

**Jen Wilkinson**

**Appointments Sub Committee Chair**

**Tim Owen**

**Appointments Secretary**

	<b>CENSUS RETURN 2015</b>						
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Groups</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Beaver</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>404</b>
<b>Cub</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>466</b>
<b>Scout</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>453</b>
<b>Explorer</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>1480</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1687</b>	<b>1801</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>1840</b>

## **BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT**

We started off our District Beaver year with our Beaver Challenge. There were 8 teams that competed, held at 39<sup>th</sup> Sandbach HQ. The Beavers had to guess names of flowers by picture, football teams by shirt, name Scouting badges, throw Beaver shaped bean bags into a bucket for points, guess sounds, Kim's game, guess different items by smell alone & pictures of famous people to guess.

They all did brilliantly and the overall winning Colony was 5<sup>th</sup> Elworth, who went on to represent SWC at County, they did well but didn't win this time.

March saw 115 Chief Scout Bronze Award achievers attend a special certificate presentation, held at St Thomas More High School. Well deserved for all their hard work.

There were nearly 200 Beavers who attended District Film camp this year. We had specific activities laid on for us to help gain one of the new badges, Camp Craft. The Beavers loved the inflatables, laser tag, the monkey bridge, aerial runway and the campfire. We also made a very impressive igloo from empty milk cartons.

The Milldale warden team have made 2 raised beds for any of the Colonies wishing to do the new Gardeners badge, if they have no space at their own HQ., and a couple of them have taken up the opportunity already with success. Thank you team Milldale.

They also laid on a Beaver & Cub leader's skills day/weekend. Although the take up wasn't huge, those that attended had a fabulous time and there was great feedback – spurring on the others to now put their names down for the next one. Skills learnt were fire lighting, axes & saws, camp setup, pioneering, backwoods cooking & den building to name a few.

Sports day was once again held at South Cheshire College in September. 9<sup>th</sup> Wrenbury were overall winners and also the Tug of War trophy. Well done 9<sup>th</sup>. Again the medals were a huge hit with the Beavers. We managed to keep the Tug of War rope intact this year but it was still a close fought battle.

Remembrance Sunday was yet again well attended around the District, everyone proudly wearing their poppies & 'Lest we Forget' badges on their uniforms.

In early December we had our bi- annual trip to Amerton Farm, Staffs, all aboard the Santa Special! This year we visited their Birds of Prey/Animal Sanctuary. This was brilliant and the staff even got out some of the animals and birds for us to look at close up. The weather wasn't great but did definitely not dampen anyone's spirits,

how can it when there's a Father Christmas giving out presents and sherry (present to the Beavers, sherry to the leaders just in case you were wondering)!

This year Mel Dunn, (12<sup>th</sup> Shavington BSL), agreed to also become ADC Beavers for SWC, so we have split the District in half so as to better manage & support the Colonies together. I am thrilled and excited to have her on board, she is a huge asset to the District Leadership team, we are already knee deep in District Beaver Family camp activities for June 2016, including the new Pond Dipping activity that is taking great shape at Milldale and is very exciting, SWC District Beavers have paid for the pond dipping equipment needed and are very much looking forward to using it in June.

Finally, a huge 'Thank you' from me to all the amazing & brilliant Beaver leaders and their assistants & helpers without whom we really could not have the success we have had this year, certainly with Bronze Awards, they tirelessly give up their time to help our District Beaver Scouts achieve much more than badges. I can't wait to see what this year brings us, more exciting challenges & activities with the new badges whilst celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & 4<sup>th</sup> District Beaver Family camp.

**Donna Whalley**

**Mel Dunn**

**ADC Beavers**

## **CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT**

The first event of the year in February was our annual Craft competition which was based on the theme of 'Finding Nemo'. The 8 packs that entered came up with some brilliant ideas – the judges had a tough time making their decision but the 17th SWC were worthy winners. This year, as 2014 County winners, we hosted the competition at Bunbury HQ on the 7th March 2015, when the 17th came 2nd, 0.5 of a point behind the winners from Warrington. The judges were so impressed by the team work and finished product that the 17th were awarded a special prize; a pennant, made by one of the judges.

In March, Silver Awards were presented to 143 Cubs by the new ACC Cubs, Jon Ducker, at Sir Thomas More Catholic High School, Crewe. The following packs (number of awards in brackets) were represented: 1st (12), Wilson House (3), 5th (2), 9th (5), 15th (8), 16th (11), 17th (7), 18th (7), 22nd (1), 23rd (8), 25th (13), 26th (19), 28th (10), 35th R (4), 38th (7), 39th (8), 40th (7) and 41st (4). This was an amazing increase of 43 awards from the previous year, underlining all the hard work and commitment from leaders and Cubs alike.

The annual Fun Run was held on the evening of 26th June. Eleven packs attended; these were the 3rd, 9th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 26th, 28th, 38th and 39th. The 38th became the new Trophy holders with 2nd place going to the 38th and third to the 9th. After the run everyone was invited to a BBQ and enjoyed the early summer evening and getting to know each other.

The District Cub leaders yet again did a great job supporting the Annual Sports event on a hot and sunny Sunday of the last weekend in September. Ten packs attended the fantastic event with the Cubs competing in the flat race, obstacle race, long jump, throwing the ball, relay race and tug-of-war. The winners' trophy went to the 39th, with the 38rd coming second and the 23rd third. During the afternoon, the 'lost' 3rd place trophy, mentioned last year, mysteriously appeared on the trophy table! So we were delighted to present it to the 3rd as the best Newcomers.

Unfortunately, this year's swimming Gala, held on Saturday 10th October, clashed with the Monopoly Run weekend but ran without out a hitch thanks to some leaders dashing down to Flag Lane to help the Cubs and then returning to Queens Park to the Scouts event! The following packs competed: 1st, 23rd, 26th, 38th and 39th, with the winner's trophy going to the 26th, second place to the 1st. The event was quieter than normal but some packs were unable to attend because of the clash of dates mentioned earlier.

The Cubs Christmas Party was on Saturday 12th December, at Milldale. The 2015 party was based upon a Christmas Journey where the 88 Cubs travelled around Milldale and visited 8 stations to explore traditions of Christmas and complete a task. After completing the station, the group received a letter and by the end of the afternoon the letters spelled out the place where a 'special' visitor would be waiting! The afternoon finished with soup, rolls and cake, followed by a short service led by the Rev. Helen Chantry. The stars of the day were undoubtedly the 2 donkeys brought by their owners in return for a charitable donation. £64 was raised by the packs for the Nantwich Christie Hospital Support Group.

We would personally like to thank all the District Cub Leaders for their continuing support and enthusiasm in year that has seen an increase in the number of packs taking part in activities and being represented at District Cub Scout Meetings, without this support it would not be possible to run the District events, and the Cub Pack leaders for making us welcome at their pack nights. The coming year promises to be very busy, with County and District Events to celebrate the Cubs' Centenary Year.

**Gaynor and Roger Bracey**  
**ADC Cubs**

## **SCOUT REPORT**

Our 3rd Away week-end for leaders working with the Scout Section opened events for 2015. This time we stayed at Chirk Scout headquarter – a spacious modern building with brilliant facilities. Saturday saw participants split into 4 teams for a scavenger hunt to find places within a 20 mile radius that would make good destinations for Troop activities, and culminated with another famous “Black Tie” Dinner in the evening. Sunday provided a relaxed opportunity for help with training and networking, including a challenge to make Banoffee Pie on a Trangia with self-made whisk.

We had pretty good weather for Cheshire Hike, but entries were slightly down this year. However, it was extremely pleasing that most of our District trophies were won by Groups that had never won them before.

North West Region revived the Lord Derby competition in May, with the Cheshire County eliminator in April. Thanks go to the 2 teams from 26th and 3rd who represented us. Congratulations to the 26th who narrowly triumphed and went forward to the Final.

Scouts from almost every Group enjoyed another memorable week-end at Film Camp, and it was especially good to see more Troops staying on for the Sunday night. Very many thanks to all the organising team for a brilliant event.

Since introduction of new swimming rules a few years ago, South West Cheshire has been one of the leading Districts in the Country for leaders holding the Water Safety Management Programme qualification, allowing them to take their scouts swimming in lakes, rivers and the sea. Unfortunately, all the original ones expired in 2015, but 5 were successful in renewing with a further 10 gaining it for the first time.

Whilst a good number of our Troops manage to organise Summer Camps, there are always some who (for many good reasons) are unable to do so. Pleasingly several Troops are able to offer places to Scouts from other Groups who would not otherwise be able to enjoy the unique experience of week away with other scouts. 3 Scouts from other Troops took up the offer to join the 3rd and enjoyed a great week on a ‘greenfield’ site in the Lake District with activities that included climbing the fells, swimming in the River Esk and visiting the owls at Muncaster Castle.

At the same time as many of our Scouts were camping, another 5 from South West Cheshire were on the other side of the World at the Japan Jamboree. Congratulations to them for gaining a place in the Cheshire Troops and I know they

had an amazing time there.

The main Scout Section event of the year was 'Monopoly Live' – the third bi-annual event we have run in conjunction with Crewe & Nantwich Lions in early October (and much the biggest). After setting up camp in Queen's Park on Friday evening the teams were presented with their Monopoly boards and allowed time to plan strategy. On Saturday morning they left "GO" and had 6 hours to locate and photograph as many of the Monopoly Sites hidden around Crewe that they could find.

Following disappointing food at previous events, catering was brought 'in-house' thanks to a most efficient leader team, which ensured all were well fed before relaxing(?) to a disco in the evening.

On Sunday, teams were challenged to Rafting on the lake, with some hard fought races and a few spills which provided additional entertainment. Unfortunately, the leaders' raft was sabotaged by a certain GSL (who didn't seem to understand which side he was supposed to support...)

Congratulations to Team "Xample" from 38th SWC who won both Monopoly and the Raft Race.

Autumn got off to a good start with the 9th SWC (Wrenbury) Troop reopening after a gap of several years – we wish them the best of luck.

JOTA / JOTI ran at several Groups, and although successful, it was disappointing that few scouts from other Troops took up the invitation to take part.

The Scout Swimming Gala saw a small increase in participating Troops, with scouts encouraged by the 'Fun' races added to the usual formal heats.

As well as running weekly Troop nights and activities, leaders were further challenged in 2015 by the introduction of the "Refreshed" programme, the continuing problems with Compass, and finally getting to grips with the extensive 'Million Hands' resources.

The refreshed programme has much to commend it with the new Teamwork, Team Leader and return of the Personal Challenge all encouraging essential skills. However, cramming most of the content of the previous 9 challenges into the remaining 6 new ones (and with now no 'options') makes it a serious challenge in terms of the work required by Scouts to achieve their Chief Scouts' Gold and by leaders in record keeping.

SWC achieved another Chief Scout's Gold record with a fantastic 57 Scouts

achieving their Award (the last under the 'old' programme). Scouts who attended our CSGA Reviews continued to amaze us with everything they have achieved within the meetings and activities offered by their Leaders – our grateful thanks go to all of them.

As usual the Scout Section is extremely grateful for support of many District teams running the more specialist activities. However, whilst shooting and climbing continue to thrive, Sailing regrettably couldn't happen due to shortage of available instructors, and kayaking also suffered with a much reduced number of training week-ends. Archery provision is under some threat due to new permit rules and Dragon boating has been dormant for a couple of years now.

Adventurous activities play an undeniably vital part in the Scout programme (and attract countless number of youngsters into the Movement) and all leaders are strongly encouraged to take up the offer of Activity Permit training offered through County courses and by our own District (many free!)

The final months of the year were occupied by preparation for events in 2016, with rehearsals starting for "The Gang" and recruitment for our District Youth Forum. The Forum's progress will form part of next year's report, but initial impressions are that it will provide a positive and constructive input into everything we do from the Young People at the core of Scouting.

**Robert Galloway**  
**Lise Grasmdr**  
**ADC Scouts**

## **EXPLORER REPORT**

We are currently running with 5 Active Explorer units, 1 dormant Explorer Unit and 1 Young Leader Unit. There are 54 Explorers in the District, 24 are Young leaders with other units and 30 who are Young Leaders with other sections only. Out of all the groups in the district 17 have Young Leaders.

We have been trying hard with recruiting Leaders and a flyer/leaflet is to be designed and distributed to MMU and Reaseheath College.

We have had poor response as to volunteers for the District Youth Forum but we are endeavouring to encourage the Explorers to take an active interest.

It has been suggested that we hold a district joint Scout/Explorer Camp in the near future as it became apparent that there is a Beaver Family camp and Cub camp but there is no camp solely aimed at the Scouts and Explorers.

The Explorers all enjoyed the District camp with the new format giving the Explorers off site activities and a special evening exclusively tailored for them.

We are hoping to run an Explorer activity day. The venue is still to be decided on.

Units have held very successful summer & winter camps with many units taking part in outdoor activities as part of their programs.

Five explorers were presented with their Platinum awards at Parr Hall. A 100% improvement from the last awards ceremony. Work is in progress to up the number this year and hopefully have some Explorer belts to add to the awards.

In November we held an Explorer Leader training team building weekend at Milldale. Seven leaders attended representing Fiennes, Mallory & Wilson House. The weekend was really enjoyable with a three course meal cooked on open fires in Dutch ovens and the leaders completing a large pioneering project.

**Ingrid Shaw**  
**DESC**

## **MILLDALE CAMPSITE ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

Milldale has had another successful year, both financially, and in terms of campers. We hosted a very successful district camp in May. This helped to fund and build a new high ropes course; thanks to Ian for all the work on the construction. We now have Tomahawk throwing as an activity and have built a new grass cart track. The groundwork was also completed on a new permanent Archery Range which has been supported by a grant from Cheshire East Council.

We have struggled with support for the Young Wardens and whilst Chard Spicer continues to support the few that turn up we are unable to get more young people involved because we don't have the adult support necessary to run a full regular programme. If anyone is interested in helping Chard please get in touch with the campsite team. Chard has also brought students down from Reaseheath College and they have been managing the woodland and areas around the top car parks.

The pond has been brought back to life and can now be used again for pond dipping. Thanks must go to Barry Westwood and Roy Chetwood for the many hours spent up to their waists in mud digging the pond out. Thanks must also go to the rest of the campsite team that are constantly battling to keep the site looking good throughout the year and the wardens that have covered almost all the weekends providing support to the campers.

Work has continued on the management of the woodland. This is a significant ongoing piece of work with many trees requiring thinning and trimming.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Bennett (Digger) for his service as the Campsite Secretary. He has stepped down to focus on his role as the District Secretary.

We have had two new additions to the team; Ian Brown who is taking on special projects and Doug Dunn who has taken over as the Campsite Secretary. We still need more help, and not just to cut the grass, so if you would like to get involved at the campsite then please ask myself or another member of the campsite committee for more information.

**Carl Shore**  
**Milldale Campsite Chairman**

## Milldale Site Use 2015

The table below shows the numbers for Day Activities, Evening Activities and overnight Camps for the year.

Month	DA		EA		Camps		
	Number	People	Number	People	Number	People	Nights
January	3	45	1	2	0	0	0
February	2	26	1	17	0	0	0
March	4	90	7	169	3	36	36
April	1	23	4	45	3	35	55
May	3	179	10	205	5	1197	2127
June	4	407	31	719	6	101	151
July	3	28	42	924	8	175	288
August	4	185	1	10	6	92	339
September	4	93	9	200	9	193	279
October	4	83	6	166	5	65	107
November	4	86	5	148	1	9	9
December	3	144	1	18	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1389</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1903</b>	<b>3391</b>

	In District	Non District
<b>Nights</b>	<b>2736</b>	<b>655</b>

DA – Day Activity

EA – Evening Activity

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **SAILING.**

Due to a lack of instructors sailing in 2015 struggled to get afloat however the sailing team are working hard to try and secure sailing provision for 2016. 2 senior instructors are to renew their certificates early this year. Dates for courses have been provisionally booked with the sailing club at Winsford.

Currently being planned are 2 taster days and a course to be run over two weekends.

### **CANOEING.**

Canoeing progressed as normal last year with taster sessions and training weekends being offered throughout the year at Brereton. The canoeing team are currently planning this year's program. 6 taster sessions and 2 training weekends are being planned and will be advertised around the groups as soon as they are confirmed.

The equipment has been inspected and replaced where necessary and additional kit to cater for explorers has been added to the kit inventory. One canoe has been replaced due its back being broken and it being beyond repair and a further canoe purchased to maximise the number of canoes an instructor can lead.

Unfortunately, several existing instructors have let their BCU coaching qualifications lapse, however 2 existing instructors have completed 'top up' training in order to keep their qualifications active and 3 further instructors are currently undertaking training to be able to lead events this year. These instructors assisted at numerous events last year and those gaining their coaching qualification will ease the pressure on the core of instructors who provided last year's sessions.

### **Rob Cave**

#### **ADC Activities**

### **SHOOTING.**

YPS Tutor Training Courses are being run in early March. Places available and no one yet attending from the district. A number of shooters from the district are currently competing in the Liphook Postal Shooting Competition

Scout Shoot: SWC has the top 2 teams and top 3 shooters!

A fantastic weekends shooting has just taken place at Bisley at the annual Scout Shoot. A group from SWC shot at 600m on Saturday and then competed in the competition on Sunday shooting at 300m with 7.62mm rifles, Winchester type rifles and .22 rim fire as well as air pistols.

## NATIONAL SCOUT AIR RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Another great event attended by 750 competitors. SWC and Cheshire were successful in both individual and team events with over 30% of the medals and trophies. Teams from Warrington West, Chelford, Lindow ESU and Holmes Chapel joined the SWC contingent. Hopefully more Cheshire groups will attend next year.

We are trying to run twice monthly sessions at Milldale open to all from the district. These started in December. We have about 4 sessions booked to run for Milldale.

We need to purchase a container for storing the shooting equipment at Milldale. Hopefully a more permanent solution for the outdoor range can be put in place this year.

We will be adding to the equipment this year, including more rifles and pistols as well as range equipment

**Andrew Brookes**  
**District Shooting Advisor**

## SWIMMING

The club continues with great enthusiasm with a large number of groups supporting. We are in a much better position with instructors as we have gained a leader from the 15th and 3 young instructors who have passed all their qualifications with the club. We held two successful Gala's; one for each section which were enjoyed by all. We have 2 swimming Galas booked: Cubs 15th October and Scouts 19th October, both to be held at the new pool. Swympic will be held again at Nantwich Outdoor Brine Pool on 9th July. I would like to thank all our dedicated instructors for the time and skills they give every week that makes our club the success that it is. I would also like to thank SWC District and the Pool staff for their ongoing support.

**Janet Jones Swimming Adviser**

None of these activities would run without the dedication of the instructors and leaders who lead them. I would like to personally thank everyone who has had a hand in laying on any of the varied activities at different levels both for their help last year and in anticipation of a successful delivery in 2016

**Rob Cave**  
**ADC Activities**

## **SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT**

It was a difficult year for the Scout Shop in 2015 but thanks to the dedication of the small group of Scouting and Guiding volunteers it still achieved its targeted budget. With the increased use of on-line shopping trading will continue to be difficult in the future so in the coming years we will be looking to bring our sales channels into the 21st century.

We are appealing for anyone who can give some time to help out in the shop on either a Tuesday or Friday evening and also for a shop manager to help develop this valuable District asset.

**Ian Potts**  
**District Commissioner**

## SWC DISTRICT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2015

### Opening Balances 2015

RBS      £818.72

NS&I  
£63986.95

### Monthly Summary Reports

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
January	3116.94	7780.47	818.72
February	2521.45	446.30	2893.86
March	63083.95	5442.35	60535.46
April	16740.41	53357.82	23918.05
May	764.47	4887.45	19795.07
June	3290.29	3545.05	19540.31
July	842.00	8102.66	12279.65
August	850.00	284.36	12845.29
September	4685.00	3871.80	13658.49
October	4135.00	2966.88	14826.41
November	599.26	2969.82	12456.05
December	737.50	1659.02	1134.53

### Closing Balances 2015

RBS      £11534.53

NS&I   £60,457.37

<b>Capitation</b>	53390.50	49417.00	3973.50
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### Activities

District Camp	21673.00	21546.52	126.48
Monopoly Live	3158.31	3158.31	Nil
Milldale	28020.71	12458.14	15562.57 (profit)
Shooting	19410.75	18640.21	770.54
Sailing	Nil	597.48	4082.51
Canoeing	1329.09	254.54	5297.80
Scout Shop	45660.00	40649.00	5011.00
Swimming	1751.75	1611.11	-140.11

### Assets

Milldale	125,312.00
Scout Shop & HQ	193,685.00
Store (3 <sup>rd</sup> SWC)	101,211.00
Sailing	8,606.00
Canoeing	28,077.49
Shooting	13,490.00